

Town of Scituate  
Update  
July 20, 2020

The format for the updates has been expanded to include weekly updates from the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Burkhead, and a member of the School Committee.

Weekend thanks to Deputy Chief Elliot for opening up a cooling station at the Harbor Community Building to give residents an option for seeking relief from the heat wave.

COVID19: Two new cases in the past week. (The week prior there were six new cases.) Some of the recent new cases were for people who recently traveled. Even if you go to a place that doesn't follow the guidelines, please wear your mask and reduce the risk that you'll bring the virus home with you. Statewide 1.6% infection rate; Scituate is 2.3%. These numbers go up and down, but we are seeing downward trends.

Phase 2 of water restrictions remain in effect. Do not use any irrigation system. Hand-watering only before 9am and after 5pm. No car washing or pool filling allowed. The Town is no longer issuing warnings. It's pretty obvious if you're watering your lawn. Fines are being issued.

Town Hall is open to the public. Regular hours except Tuesday will close at 6pm. You must wear a mask and practice social distancing. If you can conduct your business online, you are encouraged to do so for your safety and the safety of our staff. Meetings will continue to be conducted remotely, per State guidelines.

The Library is doing curbside pickup every day. You can go online to reserve your books and items from the "things" library. [scituatetownlibrary.org](http://scituatetownlibrary.org). Hope to have library open on a limited basis to patrons very soon.

This is the time of year the town normally experiences brown water. If you experience brown or discolored water, please call 781-545-8735 or email [brownwater@scituatema.gov](mailto:brownwater@scituatema.gov). This provides both data points for further planning and also allows department to target responses immediately. Wheeler Park complaints were up and the department was able to do flushing and reduce the problem significantly.

The Musquashuit Pond berm replenishment will begin shortly to restore storm damage. This will require up to 16 truckloads of rocks to be transported daily along Gannett and Surfside Roads for 6-8 weeks. Residents have been notified.

Baileys Causeway and Gilson Road culvert replacements will begin late July/early August. Order of work will be announced when gas company discussions are complete.

Our resident astronomy nerd, Jim Boudreau, reminds everyone that neo-wise comet is still visible in the NW sky around 10pm each evening. (To the right of the Big Dipper)

School Committee reported that they are joining these updates because of the challenges facing re-opening of school and the need to keep residents up-to-date on rapidly developing plans.

There have been a number of significant personnel changes, including the hiring of new Superintendent Burkhead, Special Education Director, Business and Finance Director, and Principals for the High School and Wampatuck.

On July 9th, the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) announced that each district would need to develop their own re-opening plan that would abide by the health and safety guidelines outlined by the State. Preliminary plan is due July 31st and final plan by August 10th. Three models of learning are required to be included in these plans: 1) face-to-face; 2) hybrid: partial in person, partial at home; 3) virtual/at home completely.

The School administration has established a 60+ member "Safe and Strong Reopening" committee to meet the plan deadlines and ensure that every voice in the community is included. Coordinating with this Task Force is a smaller Steering committee that will meet daily to flesh out the plans for practical implementation of Task Force recommendations. This smaller group is comprised education experts within the schools.

Feedback is critical to the development of these plans. Surveys have been sent out to members of the education community. Nearly 1,000 parents, almost all staff, and 600 students have already responded. Thank you to all who have already participated and please respond if you haven't. These responses will be consolidated for review by the Task Force as they develop the plans.

A series of Zoom conferences will be held by the Superintendent with staff, parents, students, and the community at large to ask questions and express concerns. The first begin today and will continue over the next week. This information will be forwarded to the Task Force as well.

Weekly cable updates will continue every week for both BOS and School Committee on Mondays at 9:30am and rebroadcast on Channel 9 and YouTube.

Superintendent newsletters will be distributed to the school committee every Thursday via email and online providing information about Scituate schools. There will be a "one-stop shopping" website for school reopening information at a newly created blog at [scituatek12.us.org](http://scituatek12.us.org) available shortly. An email hotline is available at [2020Reopen@scit.org](mailto:2020Reopen@scit.org) for community to send questions/concerns to Task Force and Superintendent.

Next School Committee meeting will be held via zoom on Monday, July 27th at 6pm.

Next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held via remote participation, along with SCTV live broadcast, on Tuesday, July 21st at 6:30pm.

Next Town Update will be Monday, July 27th at 9:30am.